



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
1250 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

DEC 21 2010

Reggie Bicha
Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
201 East Washington Avenue, Second Floor
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8916

Dear Secretary Bicha:

This letter acknowledges the receipt and approval of the Wisconsin Program Improvement Plan (PIP) following the onsite Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) that occurred during the week of April 12, 2010. The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) was required to develop a PIP following guidelines specified in 45 CFR 1355.35(a) to address the seven CFSR outcomes and three CFSR systemic factors that were identified as not having achieved substantial conformity during the onsite review. The initial draft PIP was submitted on September 14, 2010, within 90 days of Wisconsin's receipt of its final report, and revised through a series of negotiations. The final version was tendered on December 15, 2010.

In accordance with 45 CFR 1355.36, an estimated minimum penalty of \$1,318,335 for Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2009 is applicable to the level of non-conformity identified in the CFSR report. However, we are suspending the withholding of funds associated with this penalty during the PIP implementation period and the subsequent year of non-overlapping data. If it is determined that Wisconsin is successful in rectifying any of the areas that are in non-conformity, either through successful completion of the PIP or through subsequent review, we will, at that time, rescind the withholding of Federal funds associated with those respective areas.

The Children's Bureau (CB) appreciates the diligence of your staff in working through the intricacies of this process. We have reviewed this plan, and hereby approve it, effective January 1, 2011. Regulations at 45 CFR 1355.35(d)(4) require that quarterly status reports be submitted to track progress in implementing PIP strategies and measures. Each quarterly report must be submitted no later than 30 days after the end of each quarter, with the first report due April 30, 2011.

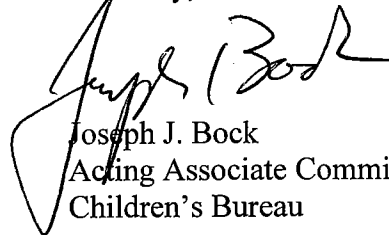
You have developed a comprehensive list of strategies with the goal of improving outcomes for children and families who are served by the Wisconsin child welfare system. Implementing these strategies and tracking progress and timeframes for completion will require concerted efforts by the State of Wisconsin and its stakeholders. We look forward to our collaboration over the next two years in the implementation of this PIP. In addition, technical assistance

remains available to you through the CB's National Resource Center Training and Technical Assistance Network. To access this technical assistance, please contact your Regional Office.

Thank you for your commitment to improving Wisconsin's child welfare system. We especially want to recognize Cyrus Behroozi, Julie Majerus, Michelle Rawlings, Mark Campbell, and Ron Hermes for their continued dedication and hard work throughout the PIP negotiation process.

Enclosed is a copy of the approved PIP and the signed PIP agreement form. If you have any questions regarding this or other related matters, you may contact Krista Thomas, Children and Families Program Specialist in Region V, at (312) 353-1122 or by e-mail at krista.thomas@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Bock
Acting Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau

Enclosures

cc: Carolyn Wilson-Hurey, Child Welfare Regional Program Manager; CB, Region V;
Chicago, IL
Krista Thomas, Children and Families Program Specialist; CB, Region V; Chicago, IL
Ruby Flagg, Children and Families Program Specialist; CB, Region V; Chicago, IL
Miranda Lynch Thomas, CB, Supervisor, CFSR Unit; Washington, DC
Myrrl McBride, Program Specialist; CB CFSR Unit; Chicago, IL
Melissa Beard, Program Specialist; CB, CFSR Unit; Washington, DC
Cyrus Behroozi, Administrator; DCF, Division of Safety and Permanence; Madison, WI
Julie Majerus, PIP Lead; DCF, Division of Safety and Permanence; Madison, WI

III. PIP Agreement Form

The PIP should be signed and dated by the Chief Executive Officer of the State child welfare agency and by the Children's Bureau Regional Office responsible for the State. The approved PIP with original signature must be retained in the Children's Bureau Regional Office. A hard copy of the approved PIP must be submitted to the following parties immediately upon approval:

- State child welfare agency
- Children's Bureau (Child and Family Services Review staff)
- Child Welfare Review Project, c/o JBS International, Inc.

Agreements

The following Federal and State officials agree to the content and terms of the attached Program Improvement Plan:

12/710



Reggie Bicha, Secretary, Department of Children and Families

Date



12/20/10

Date

Children's Bureau